



City of Wichita Proposed Tree Policy Summary

The Need:

Currently there is no formal tree survey/policy and no notification of tree removal on public property.

There is a significant gap between tree removal and tree planting due to aging/sick canopy, gaps in policy, and lack of funding.

This policy applies to City development on City property and City right of ways.

Tree Survey will include:

- Common and/or botanical name of each tree.
- Trees proposed to remain and to be removed.
- Condition rating of current trees .
- Groves with indication of predominant species, number of trees and size of Diameter at Breast Height (D.B.H).
- Any off-site tree with a root protection zone which could be adversely affected by the proposed activity.
- The location and dimensions of established and proposed perimeter landscaping, natural vegetation easements, and open space areas for public, private, or community use.
- Net buildable areas.
- Critical areas and their buffers.
- Stormwater Tracts.
- Limits of Construction line.
- North arrow, scale, and date of survey.

Tree Protection Plan

- A statement describing how trees intended to remain will be identified, marked, and specific actions how trees will be protected before the start of and during development
- The City shall have prepared recommendations for the tree protection plan. The tree protection plan shall be drawn to scale using the tree survey as a base and containing the following information:
 - The exact location and conditions, as determined by the City arborist, of protected trees, drawn to accurate canopy spread and with an indication of D.B.H.
 - The exact location, common name and/or botanical name, and caliper of each tree species to be planted.
 - The site minimum tree density calculation indicating the total number, size, and species of existing trees to be preserved and the replacement trees to be planted
 - The site replacement tree calculation with an explanation including the number, caliper, and species.
 - The location, materials, dimensions, and layout of the protective barriers.
 - Visual documentation

Tree Density

- A minimum tree density is required on each site. The tree density may consist of existing trees, replacement trees, or a combination of existing and replacement trees
- If a tree is unable to be planted in the project area, P&R director is able to relocate the required planting to another area.

Penalties

- Penalties assessed will be for trees in the jurisdiction of the City of Wichita. Minimum is **\$200**
- Calculations will be based on quality of the tree prior to destruction based on the following:
 - Base value
 - Cross-sectional area
 - Species classification
 - Condition rating
 - Location rating
- Permits for specified alterations of such trees issued by the City Arborist or designee will mitigate penalties.
- If a tree is damaged and does not require removal, assessment of a fine of not more than two hundred dollars, as per current statute.

Maintenance Best Practices

The City of Wichita will promote the following standards on how it removes trees and plants trees. The City will also recommend tree maintenance and removal standards that it recommends the public be aware of as they have trees removed and maintained on their private property. The City is not mandating that these private standards occur, rather, a promotion of best practices that the public maintain awareness of.

Heritage Tree Program

- The City will institute a program whereas the City as well as the public may apply for City trees to be designated as Heritage Trees.
- To receive a Heritage tree status the tree must fall into the following categories:
 - Size: Must exceed what is commonly found in the area for the species in diameter, canopy spread etc.
- Once the tree is listed as a Heritage Tree it requires an administrative variance from the Director of Park & Recreation prior to removal
- Applications will be sent to the Park & Recreation Director who will review and bring acceptable applications to the Park Board of Commissioners. The Board will then have the discretion to determine if a specified tree can be deemed a Heritage Tree.
- Each Heritage Tree will be added to the city website so the public can access the list of Heritage Trees and where to visit them.

.....

*This is a summary, and not the actual policy.

**The policy has not been finalized.